

Symposium O: Materials Inspired by Biology  
held at the 2003 MRS Spring Meeting  
Prof. Kristi Kiick, Univ of Delaware

- Symposium O offered contributions both to the materials and biomaterials disciplines as well as to MRS. First, it presented a unique opportunity for materials scientists to learn about biomaterial issues that was facilitated by the offering of the tutorial on tissue engineering. This tutorial provided opportunities for interaction and collaboration across disciplines. For the biomaterials scientist, it offered presentations on a variety of new materials that can be used
- for biomaterials and biosensing applications. In contributions to the MRS, Symposium O hosted scientific presentations by the two keynote Meeting speakers and established the tissue engineering and biomaterials area more firmly in the scope of the meeting. Similar sessions will be offered at future MRS meetings.

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- Of the 28 invited speakers, 6 were students, postdocs or assistant professors providing opportunity and recognition for outstanding young investigators in the materials science discipline. This percentage was well-maintained in the rest of the oral presentations and poster contributions.
- Several student presenters from Symposium O were recognized with MRS Gold and Silver Graduate Student Awards (GSA) for outstanding presentations.